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*Hypnotismus und Willensfreiheit.* Vortrag gehalten in der Aula der Universität Basel von F. MIESCHER, Professor der Physiologie. 1888, pp. 36.

Like many such addresses, the object here is simply to acquaint the audience with the general features of hypnotism. This Dr. Miescher does by giving the history of the topic, accenting especially the work done by Dr. Braid and Dr. Liébeault. Then he describes the chief phenomena, anaesthesia, rigidity, supersensitiveness, negative hallucination, post-hypnotic suggestion, and so on, from the point of view of the Nancy school. Upon this follows a brief special consideration of the freedom of the will as illustrated by hypnosis. In this state we have the mind practically reduced to a state of automatism. Some amount of self-control, however, remains; and the suggestion of something entirely contrary to the subject's habits will be opposed. This automatism, too, is related to more normal instances of the control of one will over another. In the main, none the less the phenomena of hypnotism show how intimately the question of responsibility is connected with physical conditions, and how easily a condition of irresponsibility is induced.

*Ueber hypnotische Suggestionen, deren Wesen, deren klinische und strafrechtliche Bedeutung.* JOH. G. SALLIS. Berlin, 1888, pp. 53.

This very commendable pamphlet has for its object the instruction of the intelligent layman in the apparently mysterious phenomena now exhibited and commented upon all about him. The topics are treated in a plain manner, not exaggerating our present knowledge, and taking sound views on all doubtful points, such as the action of a magnet, of sealed drugs, and so on. The three stages of Charcot are not adhered to, and the position approaches that of the school of Nancy. The symptoms are treated under the heads of sensory, motor, and vegetative; the last including the influence upon involuntary organs. Many illustrative cases are cited, particularly in the therapeutic portions. On the whole the pamphlet is very similar to that of Obersteiner, though differing from it in many details.

*Hypnotism or Mesmerism.* CHARLES B. CORY. Boston, 1888, pp. 61.

America has as yet taken a comparatively small share in the discussion of hypnotism, now so all-absorbing in France and elsewhere. The present volume is a contribution from the chairman of the committee on Hypnotism, of the American Society for Psychical Research. It contains matter already published or read, and is intended to enlighten the American public on a topic in which much misconception exists. A general paper on hypnotism, partly historical and mainly expository, is followed by the most valuable of Mr. Cory's papers, in which he shows, by ingenious experiments, the part played by the voluntary yielding of the subject in the act of hypnotization. When, unknown to the subject of the experiment, he makes the most intense efforts to will her to sleep, no result is effected; while, if the patient is informed that Mr. Cory in another room is willing her to sleep, the desired effect takes place. Mr. Cory concludes: (1) that hypnotism is related to an abnormal constitution of the nervous system; (2) that only a small percentage of persons are hypnotizable; (3) that the condition is entirely due to

suggestion, no one being hypnotized without being informed or led to suspect that he is to be an object of experiment; (4) that the condition may be self-induced; (5) that in certain cases the hypnotic is insensitive. Quite as interesting are Mr. Cory's experiments on negative hallucinations, proving most conclusively that the subject takes some accidental peculiarity as the clue to not seeing a certain object, and that if that clue be removed the suggestion fails. The final paper illustrates the therapeutic value of hypnotism.

*Ueber Beziehungen zwischen Hypnotismus und cerebraler Blutfüllung.*  
HANS KAAH. Wiesbaden, 1885, pp. 35.

To the support of the vaso-motor explanation of hypnotism, the author brings two experiments, frequently repeated, and corresponding plethysmographic tracings. The only useful subject was a neuropathic woman of twenty-one years. If, when she was in the lethargic stage, a hot compress was applied to her head, she at once awoke. A cold compress had rather the opposite effect. But when she was cataleptic, the hot one was without effect, and the cold one caused a return to the lethargic state. The tracings showed a somewhat increased volume of blood in the arm in the lethargic stage and decreased in the cataleptic. These hot and cold applications, he believes, must have worked reflexly on the vaso-motor system, producing anaemias and hyperaemias in the cortex and lower centers. The author is not inclined to generalize from his single case, and with present information as to the subtlety of suggestion and the perceptive powers of subjects, would realize an alternative to the vaso-motor hypothesis.

*Ueber hypnotische Erscheinungen.* Vortrag von TH. MEYNERT. Wien. klin. Wochenschrift, Vol. I, Nos. 22, 23, 24 (1888).

Clinical observation and not experiment is, in Prof. Meynert's opinion, the true path to right understanding of hypnotism, and, though with much hesitation, in handling such a subject, he presents two cases from his own observation. In one, the patient had natural seizures, somewhat resembling states of hypnotism; in the other, the subject had been worked up by previous manipulators to a state of ultra-susceptibility. In the states of these two he finds a partial correspondence to the stages of Charcot, and explains what he finds, together with some of the more common hypnotic phenomena, on the basis of circulatory changes in the encephalon, local anaemias and hyperaemias, thus joining himself to an early view of Heidenhain, and one more recently supported by Kaan and others.

*Magnetismus, Hypnotismus, Spiritualismus.* Dr. GEORG V. LANGSDORFF. Berlin, 1889.

The trend of this pamphlet is spiritualistic and unscientific.

*Ein Beitrag zur therapeutischen Verwerthung des Hypnotismus.*  
ALBERT, FREIHERRN V. SCHRENCK-NOTZING. Leipzig, 1888, pp. 94.

From this pamphlet one gains an admirable idea of the extensive activity now absorbed by studies in hypnotism. The main portion of this thesis is devoted to a résumé of recent contributions to the therapeutic aspects of hypnotism in various countries. The two